

The Albuquerque Morning Journal

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1905.

Need of Better Roads

PERSONS who attempted to drive over any of the country roads in this vicinity, a few weeks ago, before the cold weather hardened the mud, do not need to be told that there is a grand opening in this country for a "good roads" movement. We believe it to be entirely within the boundaries of the truth to say that there is not within the whole of Bernalillo county, a mile of road, in the sense in which the term is used in the states. We have trails, leading from one settlement to another, but in a large majority of cases they have no legal existence, and may be moved at pleasure, or fenced up altogether by the men whose lands they cross. And in the few instances where they have been surveyed and legally "located," they are not roads, but merely the places where roads may lawfully be made. In dry weather they answer the purpose, and enable the people to get from one place to another, but during such weather as we had most of the time for three months immediately preceding the present cold spell, they were absolutely impassable for loaded wagons.

Like conditions exist nearly all over the territory, and for the same reason that the Arkansas man didn't mend his roof—in dry weather it was good enough, and in rainy weather he couldn't work. As a rule we have mud-producing weather so rarely in New Mexico that the people do not regard it as winter while to make preparations against such times. But Bernalillo county is big enough and rich enough to make itself an exception to the general rule, and it is particularly discreditable to us to allow the present conditions to continue. There is a good territorial law on the subject, and all that is necessary is to have it enforced. Every able-bodied citizen is liable for a tax of three dollars a year for road purposes, or three days' labor on the roads of his district in lieu of the cash. This would furnish an ample revenue for maintaining good, well worked roads in every road district in the county, and if we do not have decent highways it is nobody's fault but our own.

A Dangerous foe

IN THE current issue of the Railroad Gazette, George Westinghouse calls attention to the very serious problems that are raised in the modern city by electrolysis. The voracious "escaped currents," he says, attack lead pipes and steel beams on sight, and actually either eat them in two, or so weaken their structure as to jeopardize the safety of the building of which they form a part.

The New York Globe, in commenting upon this letter says: The subject has been repeatedly raised for public discussion in connection with the great steel-framed office buildings, the elevated structure, Brooklyn Bridge, and underground water and gas pipes. There has hitherto been no apparent unanimity of expert opinion as to the best practical way of preventing such serious damage.

Now Mr. Westinghouse says the subway pillars and roof are in danger from the direct current used in the third rail. No blame, he continues, attaches to the engineers making such installations in the past, because only this year has the single-phase alternating current motor been made commercially available. He states his belief, however, that the few direct current systems already substituted for steam will in their turn soon be displaced by the alternating current motor.

IT IS said that the people of Russia are too ignorant for self-government, but there appear to be a number of them who know how to manage a campaign so as to quickly bring the most powerful autocracy the world has ever known to its knees.—Dallas News.

LOOKS as if there soon would be "plenty of room at the top" in the life insurance business.—New York Herald.

A NEW ENGLAND teacher, in a recent lecture, put Judge Lindsay, of the Denver Juvenile Court, among the four really great men of the day in this country. This is because of his success in handling juvenile incorrigibles. Upon examination his plan is found to be the provision of some occupation. His theory apparently is that the child who is old enough to steal is old enough to work. When one is caught stealing he is given his liberty on parole, and if possible some honest occupation is provided for him, or he is kept at school, but always under the eye of the court. He enters into an agreement with the Judge, and if his part is not kept escape is impossible, and he is ordered into court at once.

The Walsh Bank Failures

THE Chicago Tribune commenting on the Walsh bank failures says: "The trouble was due to the managing officers of the bank being interested in outside enterprises requiring the use of large amounts of money which they supplied from the funds of the bank in larger and larger amounts. No bank whose officers are using its money to any considerable amount, is ever free from danger. They do not all fall by any means, of course, but when a bank does fail it is almost invariably from this cause."

"There is seldom a failure which is not due to excessive loans, either directly to the officers or to various concerns in which they are in some way interested."

"There was no money stolen from the Walsh banks, or any shortage in their securities, as there was, for instance, in the Enterprise bank of Allegheny, Pa."

"But Walsh branched out more and more into other enterprises. He owned a large Chicago newspaper, three or four railroads, coal mines, quarries, and had real estate and property of every description."

"Instead of heeding warnings and reducing his loans, he kept on until the strain was too great and he had to fail. As soon as we got the figures from the national bank and the two state institutions based on simultaneous examinations it revealed the fact that the total amount of loans to his institutions was so large that not one of the three banks could continue without help."

The clearing house committee of Chicago investigating the affairs of the wrecked Chicago National bank of which John R. Walsh was president found that nineteen clerks in the employ of Walsh had borrowed \$92,000 each or a total of \$1,748,000. This money was used in the various newspaper, railroad and quarry enterprises in which Walsh was the owner.

According to the national banking laws a national institution may not loan an amount in excess of one-tenth of its capital stock to any individual borrower. The capital of the Chicago National is \$1,000,000. A loan for \$92,000 is comfortably below the legal limit.

The clearing house association makes a practice of calling for statements of loans which reach the legal limit. As the borrowers only asked for \$92,000, instead of \$100,000, the federal statute was technically not violated, while the rules of the clearing house were observed to the extent that the association was not privileged to pass upon these borrowings, and consequently knew nothing about them.

Solos

by the
 Second
 Fiddle

Mr. Folk is engaged in putting sealing wax around the edge of the lid.

With all due modesty Odell thinks that now he's out the party is wrecked.

Now they say Fitz is merely "putting on" all that distress because his wife left him.

"Czar's Empire in its Death Agony" says a daily. Now where have we heard that expression before.

The Jerome city council will give the gamblers of that town a New Year's present of a nice new lid.

Ng Boon Chew says missionaries are liked in China. He does not state whether the Chinks prefer them rate or well done.

The Carlsbad Current says boys will be boys, but that the police and college authorities should see that they are not hyenas.

An exchange observes that old Statehood Bill is still the liveliest member of congress. Bill has more lives than the proverbial cat.

The conversationalist has the bulge nowadays. A New York grocer fired his clerk the other day because he didn't talk enough to customers.

Kansas is the benefactor of the union. One firm alone in the Sunflower state shipped five carloads of dressed turkeys to San Francisco for Christmas.

The canal problem has been solved. A bright New Mexico editor has suggested that Taft salt down the zone with gold ore and start a mining craze.

The news from Lewiston, Montana, that James Sherman has confessed to killing a pawn broker only goes to show to what depths human nature may sink.

Taft gives as his reason for not wanting visitors in his office that he is too busy. But it is believed that when the secretary is there anyone else makes it crowded.

C. T. Brown, of Socorro, writes the Chief of the mail he has failed to find many joint statehooders in southern Arizona. But then one can generally find what one is looking for.

Mark Twain has forgotten whether John the Baptist or Benjamin Franklin invented the golfball. It is of no modern interest to know that T. Roosevelt invented the big stick.

It is now claimed that \$200,000 still remains in the Klondike. Curious how that could have been overlooked, but John D. Rockefeller is fitting out an expedition without loss of time.

Convicts digging in the prison yard at Reno, Nevada, uncovered the skeleton of a mastodon. The editor of the Almanac is nervous for there's no telling what those convicts may dig up yet.

Carlsbad dexterously avoided the Greer bill by substituting goats for cattle in a grand Christmas roasting contest down there. Goats and burros are not included in the anti-roping law.

The mayor of Wellsville, Ohio, showed the glad Yuletide spirit handsomely. All Christmas drinks were allowed to go free and if desired a policeman was furnished to escort each jay home.

Claim jumpers have been getting in their work in Gila county, Arizona, and trouble is brewing. Since the statehood question came up all records for high jumping have been broken in southern Arizona.

The Socorro Chief of Police observes with a grin that Yarnmaster Mudge, who was beaten to death at San Marcial is convalescing rapidly. Mr. Mudge himself has confided to his friends that the reports of his death were grossly overdrawn.

M. Witte better get busy. King Peter of Serbia and King Leopold of Belgium have each come in with specials to the Evening Citizen and there is a lively rivalry among the royalty of Europe to crowd Witte out of his job.

Government by injunction has reached a stage when the people should rise up. A Boston man has applied for an injunction to restrain his wife from telephoning him when he is at the office. The horrid man says it bothers him.

The scientists at Yale say that from an inspection of the fossil remains of one of the great saurians they have figured that the monster when alive weighed 77,000 pounds. This has excited a natural interest among paleontologists as to what the Almanac weighed.

It won't do to get gay with the Irish. Two thousand sons of Erin rose up as one man in Butte the other day when a show company burlesqued a "Paddy." The troupe's tour has been brought to an abrupt termination and Butte's cemetery has had a substantial addition.

Two Estimates. The Artist—No; the governor doesn't pay me more than I'm worth. The Fair One—How in the world do you manage to live on it?

Dogfish. From the London Chronicle. Why should not the dogfish be caught and sold for food? asked Lord Henage in yesterday's issue, apropos of a recent "plague" of this fish off the Devon and Cornish coasts. The answer is that there is no reason except the name. Try and imagine the horrified look of a sium child if, when calling for a "penny middle and a 'aporth' at the local fried fish shop, he were asked which was preferred "dogfish or catfish." Yet the latter is frequently and easily disposed of in all the poorer districts of London under the euphemistic name of rock salmon. Why not christen the dogfish American turbot, or some other nice name, and eat and enjoy it under a pleasant title?

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7-room brick house, Tijeras avenue; modern, fine location; \$3,300.

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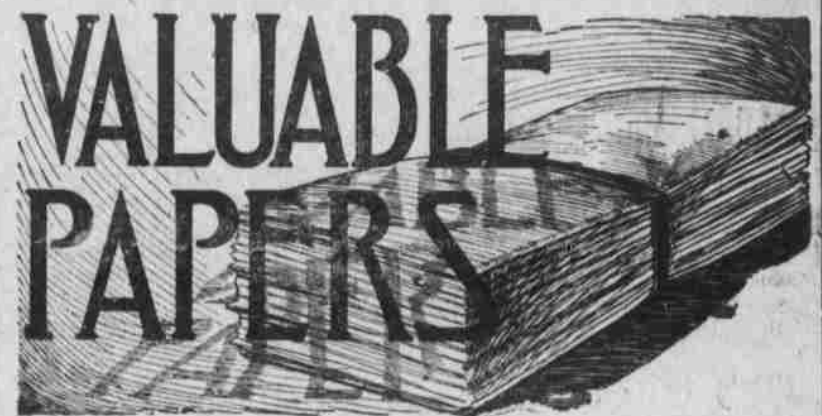
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